

[Home](#) > [Mushaf Fatimah \(a.s\)](#) > [What is Mushaf Fatimah?](#) > [Mushaf in classical writings](#) > Mushaf in Contemporary Writings

Mushaf in classical writings

Mushaf was used by classical writers in their manuscripts in reference to a bound book. For example the author Jaahidh referred to each section of his book *Al-Haywaan* as a *Mushaf* and

at the end of each section he would write, “thus ends the first *Mushaf* and begins the second *Mushaf*. .”

Also, Sheikh Aba Bakr bin 'Iqaal Saqli in *Fawaa'id* says, “The sahabah didn't collect the sunnah of the Prophet of Allah(s.a.w) in a book (*Mushaf*).” [1](#)

It's worth pointing out that the word *Mushaf* is mentioned neither in the Quran itself nor was it counted among the names of the Quran. Jalaaluddin Suyuti² and Abu Al-Ma'aali al-Saaleh, who was one of the transmitters of hadith of Islam, counted 55 titles for the Quran and the word “*Mushaf*” was not among them.

It's interesting to know that no one objected to Seebway's calling his book *Al-Keetaab*, despite the fact that that was one of the titles of the Quran, but they object to the book of Lady Fatimah(a.s) being called “*Mushaf*”.

[Mushaf in Contemporary Writings](#)

Dr. Imtiyaz Ahmad in his book *Dalaa'il al-towtheeq al-mobakkir lil sunnah wa al-hadeeth* says that *Mushaf* doesn't just refer to the Quran, but can refer to (any) book. In order to prove his claim, he cites several sources.³ Also professor Bakir Bin 'Abdullah in his book *Ma'rifat al-nasakh wa al-sahhaf al-Hadeeth* says, “*Mushaf* is an idiomatic expression which is inclusive to any collected work used by speakers.”⁴

Dr. Nasiraddin Asad in *Masaadir al-shu'ur al-jaahili* writes, “They called any bound book a “*Mushaf*” and it strictly refers to a book, not just the Quran.”⁵

[1.](#) Abu Rayhah, Adhwa'ala al-sunnat al-mohammadiyah, p.259, Al-Batha' publication.

- [2.](#) Al-Itiqaan fi 'ulum al-Quran, v. 1, pp.51–52, Beirut; Daar al-Fikr
- [3.](#) Ahmad I, Dalaa'il al-towtheeq al-mobakkir lil sunnah wa al-hadeeth, pp.263–269, A. Amin tr., Pakistan; Islamic Research Publications
- [4.](#) bin 'Abdullah B, Ma'rifat al-nasakh wa al-sahhaf al-Hadeeth, pp.23–31, Jeddah; Daar al-Raayah.
- [5.](#) Asad N, Masaadir al-shu'ur al-jaahili, p. 139, Cairo; Daar al-Ma'aarif, 1969.

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